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Islamic Republic of Iran interim country strategic plan (2023–2025)

Duration	1 April 2023–31 December 2025
Total cost to WFP	USD 37,020,797
Gender and age marker*	3

* https://gender.manuals.wfp.org/en/gender-toolkit/gender-in-programming/gender-and-age-marker/.

Executive summary

The Islamic Republic of Iran is a middle-income country that for more than four decades has hosted close to 1 million registered refugees, primarily from Afghanistan. While the Islamic Republic of Iran has made satisfactory progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 2 and therefore does not consider zero hunger a national development priority, the food security situation of vulnerable refugees, particularly the 31,000 most vulnerable people living inside 20 refugee settlements across the country, remains fragile and warrants continued humanitarian assistance.

This has become increasingly evident in recent years as trade restrictions, inflation and the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic have caused a significant economic downturn, stretching national capacities and eroding the purchasing power of the most vulnerable refugees.

At the same time, earthquakes and increasingly frequent climate-related hazards such as droughts and floods cause major damage and losses, adversely affecting the Islamic Republic of Iran's development gains. Adding to these challenges, the uncertain humanitarian situation in neighbouring Afghanistan has led thousands of vulnerable Afghan girls, boys, women and men to flee to the Islamic Republic of Iran, putting further economic pressure on the country. These

Focal points:

Ms C. Fleischer
Regional Director
Middle East, Northern Africa and Eastern Europe
email: corinne.fleischer@wfp.org

Ms N. Gerami
Country Director
email: negar.gerami@wfp.org

compounding crises call for increased solidarity and sharing of responsibility in line with the Global Compact on Refugees.

Building on WFP's long-standing experience in successfully assisting refugees and other crisis-affected populations in the Islamic Republic of Iran to meet their basic food and nutrition needs, and informed by reviews, assessments, lessons learned and consultations conducted using a "whole-of-society" approach, this interim country strategic plan will help address these challenges. Working with partners, in particular the Ministry of Interior's Bureau for Alien and Foreign Immigrant Affairs and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, WFP seeks to improve the food security of the most vulnerable refugees and other crisis-affected populations, while supporting more efficient and effective crisis response aligned with national policies and within the framework of the Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan.[1] WFP will achieve these objectives through two interconnected outcomes:

- *Outcome 1:* Food-insecure refugees and other crisis-affected populations in Iran are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs throughout the year.
- *Outcome 2:* Crisis-affected populations in Iran benefit from enhanced coordination and improved capacities of national entities and other partners to prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies all year round.

These outcomes are directly linked to WFP strategic outcomes 1 (people are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs) and 5 (humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective).

Reinforcing WFP's existing interventions in the Islamic Republic of Iran, this interim country strategic plan embeds strengthened emergency preparedness and response across all activities, with carefully designed contingencies and corresponding budget allocations that will allow WFP to respond rapidly to potential new arrivals from Afghanistan, sudden-onset disasters or partner requirements for WFP services. A key new element is the expansion of WFP's school feeding programme to urban areas, which will follow an inclusive approach, targeting schools attended by refugee and host community girls and boys.

In line with the WFP gender policy 2022 and the 2020 protection and accountability policy, WFP will adopt a broader approach to community engagement and take further steps to ensure refugees most at risk of being left behind including women, girls, young people, persons with disabilities and those with multiple intersecting needs are included and assisted equitably. WFP will continue to prioritize safety and dignity, avoid doing harm and facilitate access to assistance and services without discrimination and according to the diverse choices, needs and capacities of girls, boys, women and men.

Draft decision*

The Board approves the Islamic Republic of Iran interim country strategic plan (2023–2025) (WFP/EB.1/2023/6-A/2) at a total cost to WFP of USD 37,020,797.

[1] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2022. *Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan 2022.*

* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the decisions and recommendations document issued at the end of the session.

1. Country analysis

1.1 Country context

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran – hereafter referred to as Iran – is a middle-income country with a population of 84 million. Home to one of the oldest and largest refugee populations in the world, Iran has upheld international protection obligations for decades and pursued inclusive refugee policies, most notably in the areas of education and health care. However, employment opportunities and property ownership for foreign nationals are restricted under national legislation, and the Government continues to promote voluntary repatriation as the preferred solution for refugees.[2]

2. Approximately 800,000 documented refugees live in Iran, of whom 780,000 are Afghans and 20,000 are Iraqis. Ninety-six percent of refugees live in cities, towns and villages side by side with the Iranian host community, while most vulnerable refugees – 31,000 people – live in 20 settlements. Of these refugees living in settlements, 21 percent are girls, 23 percent boys, 28 percent are women and 28 percent men and around one in ten refugee households is estimated to have at least one member with long-term or temporary physical disabilities.[3]

3. Iran ranks 70th out of 189 countries in the Human Development Index,[4] and its economy, which relies heavily on oil revenues, is one of the largest in the Middle East and North Africa. However, ongoing trade restrictions and external barriers as indicated in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027, fluctuating oil prices and the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic have contributed to a significant economic downturn in recent years, with inflation rising above 40 percent and an estimated 1 million jobs lost since the onset of COVID-19 in 2020.[5]

4. This difficult economic situation has stretched national capacities and eroded the purchasing power of Iranians and refugees, leaving the most vulnerable refugees struggling to afford basic goods and services, including food.[6] Owing to the food assistance, refugee households led by women or men and living in settlements have largely maintained acceptable levels of food security. However, without continued food assistance, the most vulnerable could face food insecurity and malnutrition.

5. Persistent gender inequalities and discriminatory social norms represent a significant impediment to the economic participation of women refugees and hamper access to education for refugee girls. As a result, women are economically more vulnerable than men, and further economic deterioration is likely to exacerbate negative power and gender relations.

6. Adding to existing challenges, the humanitarian situation in neighbouring Afghanistan has been marked by uncertainty since the Taliban returned to power in the latter half of 2021. Half of Afghanistan's population is projected to be acutely food insecure in 2022, with millions of children and pregnant and lactating women at risk of acute malnutrition.[7] While

[2] The scale of the voluntary return of Afghan refugees has been limited in recent years; cumulatively only 838 refugees returned from Iran in 2021. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. January 2022. *Humanitarian Needs Overview: Afghanistan*.

[3] Sex, age and disability prevalence calculated based on data received from settlement authorities in the first quarter of 2022.

[4] United Nations Development Programme. 2020. *Human Development Report 2020 – The next frontier: Human development and the Anthropocene.*

[5] World Bank Group. 2021. *Iran Economic Monitor – The Economy at a Crossroads: Spring 2021* and *Iran Economic Monitor – Adapting to the new normal: A protracted pandemic and ongoing sanctions: Fall 2021*.

[6] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2022. *Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan 2022.*

[7] WFP. 2022. *WFP Afghanistan Situation Report.*

monitoring new arrivals is challenging and there is a dearth of official data, among those who approached the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the latter half of 2021, there was a significant increase in the prevalence of children, women and households led by women compared to pre-crisis levels.[8] The high proportion of these groups combined with frequently reported needs for shelter, livelihoods and food highlights the precarious situation of new arrivals.

7. Iran is a disaster-prone country. Earthquakes and increasingly frequent climate-related hazards such as droughts and floods cause major damage and losses, adversely affecting Iran's development gains. In 2019, Iran passed a national disaster management law, which sets out a comprehensive and holistic approach to both short and long-term aspects of disaster management. However, the scale and increased frequency of recent disasters – notably flash flooding in 2019 and 2020 that affected millions of people in most of Iran's 31 provinces – indicate the continued need for rapid and agile humanitarian response capacity to complement national efforts.

1.2 Progress towards sustainable development

8. Sustainable development is a priority for Iran and is reflected in all medium- and long-term national documents, including the constitution (1979, amended in 1989), Iran's "20-Year Vision Document" (2005) and its five-year national development plans. Iran has made progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably in terms of the accessibility and universal coverage of education, health care, sanitation and energy, as well as the provision of social support and social protection. The neonatal mortality rate fell from nearly 12 to 9 per 1,000 live births between 2012 and 2020 and both primary and lower secondary education are currently almost universal.[9] Regarding energy, 100 percent of the urban population and 99.7 percent of the rural population have access to electricity.[10] However, the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic and trade restrictions present a challenge to Iran's development potential, stretching national capacities, and impacting structural issues such as high levels of unemployment and underemployment, economic inequality and a large environmental footprint. Consequently, the most vulnerable refugees are at higher risk of being left behind. The development context and various factors challenging pathways towards sustainable development in Iran are covered in more depth in the UNSDCF 2023-2027, of which WFP is a signatory.

1.3 Progress towards Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17

Progress on Sustainable Development Goal 2 targets

9. In the last decade the share of Iran's gross domestic product derived from agriculture has increased, with more diversification of agricultural production and greater national self-sufficiency in the production of vital crops such as wheat. Iran scores well on the Global Hunger Index, with a score of 7.7 (out of 100), corresponding to the lowest hunger category.[11]

[8] By mid-November 2021, over 25,730 newly arrived Afghans (46 percent children) had approached the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 60 percent of whom arrived in Iran between August and September. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2022. *Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan 2022.*

[9] United Nations country team. *United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the Islamic Republic of Iran 2023–2027* (Draft, forthcoming).

[10] *Ibid*.

[11] Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe. 2021. *Global Hunger Index: Iran (Islamic Republic of).*

10. Given the satisfactory progress against SDG 2, national food security efforts focus on the provision of food assistance to refugees living in settlements due to their comparative vulnerability. Recent economic challenges have exacerbated vulnerabilities and threaten to diminish previous food security gains achieved among refugees in settlements.

11. *Access to food.* A 2022 joint assessment mission (JAM) by WFP and UNHCR indicated that refugees in settlements rely heavily on monthly food assistance provided by WFP. Reduced purchasing power due to inflation and the absence of sustainable job opportunities, exacerbated by COVID-19, are major drivers of protracted food insecurity among refugees.

12. Between 2018 and 2020, more than 76 percent of all refugee households in settlements reported acceptable food consumption despite the economic impacts of COVID-19, continued currency depreciation and high inflation.[12] This can largely be attributed to WFP's adjusted food basket, which included supplementary lentils and vegetable oil, and an increase in the transfer values of cash assistance, first introduced in 2018. However, in 2021, the persistent lack of income-generating opportunities led to a decline in food security among households led by men. Conversely, increased entitlements helped boost food consumption among households led by women, who predominantly rely on assistance from WFP and other organizations.

13. Nonetheless, economic stresses and resulting difficulties faced by refugees in meeting their basic needs, especially food and health care, have led to an increase in the use of negative coping mechanisms, including those with long-term repercussions such as engaging in child labour – usually boys – and sending household members with a medical condition or disability to work.[13] Women and households with high dependency ratios, especially where members have critical medical conditions or disabilities, are particularly exposed to food insecurity and are more likely to resort to negative coping mechanisms.

14. *End malnutrition.* The 2021 Sustainable Development Report indicates Iran's very low prevalence of undernourishment, stunting and wasting.[14] However, the prevalence of obesity is higher than the regional average.[15] Inside settlements, health care services routinely monitor the nutritional status of young children, referring any undernourished children for treatment through the Ministry of Health network. Refugees inside settlements have generally diverse diets with a stable average consumption of six out of seven food groups per week.[16]

15. *Sustainable food systems*. Natural disasters such as droughts and flooding pose a threat to food systems, potentially reducing productivity in some agricultural areas. Water remains scarce, and a deteriorating water supply could eventually undermine food security, as farmers' ability to cultivate crops is threatened by a more arid climate. Food systems are also negatively affected by trade restrictions and market unpredictability due to currency fluctuations, which impacts imports and the procurement of raw foods and food technology.

[12] WFP and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2021. *Post-distribution monitoring report.* (Internal draft).

[13] *Ibid*.

[14] Sustainable Development Solutions Network. 2021. Sustainable Development Report – Iran, Islamic Republic: indicators.

[15] Global Nutrition Report. 2021. Country Nutrition Profiles: Iran (Islamic Republic of).

[16] WFP and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2021. *Post-distribution monitoring report.* (Internal draft).

Progress on Sustainable Development Goal 17 targets

16. The Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR, 2012), the SSAR Support Platform (2019),[17] the Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP, 2022) and the UNSDCF for 2023–2027 all recognize that the refugee situation in Iran demands a stronger and broader partnership base built on more equitable responsibility-sharing in the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees. This is necessary to achieve coherence between the support provided to the Afghan refugee population and that provided to the Iranian community, while enabling an effective response to evolving needs and promoting peaceful coexistence. In line with corporate undertakings to advance a humanitarian–development–peace nexus approach, WFP is committed to supporting the Government and partners in enhancing such global partnerships.

1.4 Hunger gaps and challenges

17. WFP has worked in Iran since 1987, providing food assistance to refugees living in settlements. The following gaps and challenges need to be addressed to better meet the different needs of refugees.

18. *Economic vulnerability.* Refugees in settlements require continued support to meet their basic needs, including food and nutrition. Despite adjustments to the WFP food basket and an increased cash transfer value, inflation continues to erode the purchasing power of refugee households and risks undermining earlier food security gains and refugees' resilience to shocks.

19. *Barriers to self-reliance.* There are limited job opportunities for refugees living in settlements – mainly irregular or seasonal work for refugee men and boys – while negative gender norms among Afghan refugees discourage refugee women and girls from working outside the home. Ongoing livelihood opportunities in settlements supported by the international community are small scale.

20. *New refugee arrivals.* Since August 2021, the Government of Iran and UNHCR continue to report on the arrival of new refugees into Iran. However, systematically monitoring new arrivals, verifying the magnitude of the refugee influx from Afghanistan and assessing corresponding needs is challenging as the majority of asylum seekers enter Iran through unofficial border crossings and may not be registered by national authorities.

21. *Data gaps.* The absence of data systematically disaggregated by sex, age and disability and of gender analysis related to refugees living in settlements poses challenges to the planning of inclusive programming that is sensitive to the differing needs, preferences and lived realities of refugee girls, boys, women and men. In particular, sex- and age-disaggregated data on school enrolment and attendance rates is not available in any systematic manner and assessing how many girls and boys drop out of school and for what reasons remains difficult. This limits the evidence base for reducing gender inequalities within the refugee population.

22. *Social cohesion.* While economic shocks affect both refugee and host communities in Iran, they also appear to weaken trust between the two groups and therefore undermine social cohesion.[18] As the humanitarian response to the refugee situation scales up, actors should consider providing support to vulnerable groups within the Iranian host population in order

[17] Since 2012 the Islamic republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan have pursued the SSAR as a regional approach to create an environment conducive to voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration inside Afghanistan, while also easing pressure on host communities. The SSAR Support Platform was launched in 2019 to draw on stronger international political and financial commitments to achieve solutions for Afghan refugees, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees.

[18] World Bank Group. 2022. *How Do Shared Experiences of Economic Shocks Impact Refugees and Host Communities? Evidence from Afghan Refugees in Iran.*

to mitigate perceptions of bias and preserve host community support for the presence of refugees.

2. Strategic implications for WFP

2.1 Achievements, lessons learned and strategic changes for WFP

23. For over three decades, WFP has strengthened its humanitarian response to the protracted refugee crisis in Iran, continuing to provide unconditional food assistance to the most vulnerable refugees living in settlements while successfully expanding activities related to education and livelihoods. In recent years, several large-scale natural disasters have occurred, putting a strain on national response capacities. WFP has become a partner of choice for responding to emergencies that exceed national response capacity and will continue, under this interim country strategic plan (ICSP), to rapidly mobilize complementary emergency response upon the request of the Government.

24. The new ICSP builds on WFP's long-standing experience and is informed by recommendations from an internal audit and a mid-term review, both conducted in 2021; two JAMs conducted with UNHCR in 2019 and 2022; a privacy impact assessment in 2021; annual comprehensive post-distribution monitoring (PDM); and several functional oversight assessments. These exercises have included engagement with national stakeholders and partners as well as with women and men in refugee communities to increase WFP's understanding of their diverse needs, desires, risks and capacities. The strategic evaluations on WFP's capacity to respond to emergencies (2020) and on school feeding activities (2021) have provided further important insights for the ICSP.

25. The internal audit found that WFP had achieved its mandate despite the challenging operational context and afforded the operation an "effective/satisfactory" rating. WFP will implement audit recommendations in the course of 2022 which will benefit the operation in areas such as risk management, including in relation to cash-based transfers (CBTs); beneficiary management; monitoring; vendor processes; and resource management.

26. Trade restrictions have required WFP to engage in local procurement on a "delivered at place" basis. Local purchase ensures short lead times and conformity with local quality standards. The introduction of CBTs in 2018, complementing in-kind assistance, has been welcomed by all stakeholders, and refugees report that the hybrid approach offers a dignified choice and flexibility around food purchases.

27. The implementation of WFP's school feeding programme for refugee girls and boys and their teachers has proven highly successful, with improvement in retention and a reduction in drop-out rates compared to the baseline.[19] Based on JAM recommendations, WFP will pilot the programme in urban areas using an inclusive approach and targeting schools that host both refugee and host community girls and boys. This expansion beyond the refugee population in settlements reflects an increased emphasis on responsibility sharing and promoting peaceful coexistence, which is demanded by the operational context in Iran.

28. While there are no major shifts in the strategic direction of WFP's operations in Iran, throughout the ICSP WFP will work with partners to achieve its objectives more effectively by identifying and addressing barriers to ensure no one is left behind. Building on internal audit and monitoring and evaluation oversight recommendations, WFP will strengthen its community engagement for accountability to affected populations (AAP) by taking a more systematic approach to the use of community feedback mechanisms (CFMs) in order to close the feedback loop. In line with corporate requirements, WFP will develop a community

[19] Retention and dropout rates at 94 percent and 6 percent, respectively, in 2021, compared to 70 percent and 30 percent at baseline (2017). WFP. 2022. *Iran (Islamic Republic of) Annual Country Report 2021*.

engagement for AAP action plan that is sensitive to contextual and operational opportunities and challenges in Iran.

29. WFP's education incentives have been effective in sending girls to school and reducing the gender gap in both enrolment and attendance.[20] In line with its gender policy 2022, WFP will advance gender equality and empower women through gender-specific actions including expanding the refugee girls' education incentive, targeting refugee women (including those with intersecting needs, such as disability) for livelihood opportunities inside settlements and promoting refugee women's decision making over how to use the assistance provided.

2.2 Alignment with national development plans, the United Nations sustainable development cooperation framework and other frameworks

30. WFP's interventions in Iran are designed in full alignment with national policies on refugee-hosting, notably the SSAR and the Iran chapter of the RRP – the humanitarian response framework launched following the establishment of the UNHCR-led Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) in July 2021. The RRP complements the SSAR and aims to both enhance burden-sharing by ensuring that the needs of Afghans and their host communities are met and to facilitate solutions where conditions are viable.

31. Neither SDG 2 nor refugee-related programmes are part of the national development framework, and as such WFP activities will not contribute directly to the outcomes of the UNSDCF (2023–2027). However, WFP has proactively engaged in UNSDCF consultations and will continue to remain a signatory to the UNSDCF, which presents a critical contextual outline of Iran's development potential and the trade restrictions and external factors affecting it. This provides an opportunity for WFP to position its strengths beyond the refugee response and support the operationalization of an HDP nexus approach in Iran.

2.3 Engagement with key stakeholders

32. The 2022 JAM, conducted jointly by WFP, UNHCR and the Bureau for Alien and Foreign Immigrant Affairs, WFP's key national counterpart, was critical in informing the design of this ICSP. The JAM included consultations with refugee women and men, as well as with the Bureau at the central and provincial levels, thus ensuring broad buy-in for the recommendations. Engagement with beneficiaries through regular monitoring activities and field visits has also informed the ICSP design.

33. The development of the ICSP benefited from consultations with key donors, regular engagement with the financial service provider and RRP partners, most notably UNHCR and international non-governmental organizations, through WFP's active engagement in the formulation of the inter-agency response plan and sector coordination. WFP further engaged with the United Nations country team and contributed to the UNSDCF process to ensure cohesion between the ICSP and humanitarian and development priorities in Iran.

3. WFP strategic portfolio

3.1 Direction, focus and intended impacts

34. Building on WFP's long-standing experience in assisting refugees in Iran, the ICSP posits that "*if* WFP continues to invest in improved people-centred design and implementation of its activities and in strengthened emergency preparedness, *then* WFP will contribute to delivering and enabling a more efficient and effective humanitarian response in Iran ensuring that crisis-affected girls, boys, women and men can meet their urgent food and nutrition needs".

[20] WFP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2019. *Joint Assessment Mission Report, Islamic Republic of Iran.*

35. This ICSP focuses on two interconnected outcomes directly linked to WFP strategic outcomes 1 and 5 and contributes to SDGs 2 and 17. This approach ensures that WFP's response not only helps guarantee that crisis-affected populations are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs, but that WFP expertise and services can be leveraged by humanitarian and development partners for the efficient and effective delivery of assistance and services in a complementary manner.

36. At the heart of WFP's operations in Iran is the support to the Government in responding to the urgent food assistance needs of vulnerable refugees and other crisis-affected populations. Because of the risk of recurring natural disasters and the fluid situation in Afghanistan, the ICSP is designed to strengthen preparedness under both its outcomes, anticipating that WFP may need to respond to sudden-onset emergencies or avail its services in support of partners to save lives. Simultaneously, the ICSP integrates activities that promote access to education, gender equality and resilience for refugees in vulnerable situations, which amidst crisis can help to change lives.

37. To achieve the ICSP objectives more effectively, WFP will adopt a broader community engagement approach and take further steps to ensure refugees most at risk of being left behind – including women, girls, young people, persons with disabilities and those with multiple intersecting needs – are included and assisted equitably. WFP will prioritize safety and dignity, avoid doing harm and facilitate access to assistance and services without discrimination, respectful of the diverse choices, needs and capacities of girls, boys, women and men.

3.2 ICSP outcomes, WFP strategic outcomes, focus areas, expected outputs and key activities

Interim country strategic plan outcome 1: Food-insecure refugees and other crisis-affected populations in Iran are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs throughout the year

38. Under ICSP outcome 1, WFP's primary goal is to ensure that food-insecure refugees affected by the protracted crisis or recent events in Afghanistan as well as other vulnerable crisis-affected populations in Iran have secure access to diverse food in sufficient quantity and quality to meet their basic food and nutrition needs.

39. Considering the trend of sudden-onset emergencies over the past years, a key precondition for fully achieving outcome 1 is the ability to rapidly respond at the onset of a potential emergency.

WFP strategic outcome

40. ICSP outcome 1 is aligned with WFP strategic outcome 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs.

Focus area

41. The focus area of ICSP outcome 1 is crisis response.

Alignment with national priorities

42. ICSP outcome 1 is aligned with national refugee policies outlined in the SSAR and RRP, contributing directly to RRP strategic objective 3 (multi-sector assistance). The outcome is also coherent with UNSDCF pillars 1 (socioeconomic resilience) and 4 (disaster risk reduction and management).

Expected outputs

43. The following five outputs will contribute to the achievement of ICSP outcome 1:

- Output 1.1: Refugees and other vulnerable households receive cash-based and in-kind transfers to meet their basic food and nutrition needs.
- Output 2.1: Schoolgirls and boys, teachers and service staff receive snacks every day they attend school.
- Output 2.2: Girls regularly attending school receive take-home entitlements to increase their enrolment and retention rates.
- Output 2.3: Refugees, especially women, receive livelihood support to generate income for their families and increase their self-reliance.
- Output 3.1: Affected populations receive food assistance in order to meet basic food needs and preserve their nutrition status.

Key activities

Activity 1: Provide unconditional food assistance to food-insecure refugees and other vulnerable households

44. WFP will consider all people who live inside Iran's refugee settlements, regardless of their type of documentation, eligible for unconditional support through a mix of locally procured in-kind food assistance and CBTs. This hybrid modality is preferred by most refugee households (whether headed by a woman or a man).[21]

45. For people with coeliac disease, WFP will adapt the assistance provided by replacing wheat flour with a cash top-up that will allow them to purchase more expensive gluten-free items. Drawing on JAM findings and analysis of recent national data on disability within refugee households, WFP will also provide monthly cash top-ups to persons with disabilities to meet their higher household needs, including additional costs related to specialized treatment, medicines, assistive devices and other expenses. WFP will enhance initiatives designed to raise awareness of healthy diets and nutritious food in a gender-sensitive manner in order to promote optimal nutrition that reflects the differing needs of girls, boys, women and men of all ages.

Activity 2: Provide conditional support, especially to refugee women and girls, to incentivize education and enhance livelihoods

46. Refugee schoolgirls and boys living in settlements, including potential new arrivals from Afghanistan, will receive a nutritious snack each day they attend school to encourage and enhance enrolment, attendance, ability to learn and equal learning opportunities for girls and boys. In alignment with national school feeding policies, teachers and service staff responsible for the distribution will also receive a daily snack. Moreover, as a pilot, the same nutritious snack will be distributed in selected urban schools hosting both refugee and host community children. This expansion dovetails with the increased emphasis by national, humanitarian and development partners on greater responsibility sharing, peaceful coexistence and synergies between humanitarian and development priorities in Iran. WFP will also use the school snack programme as a platform to raise awareness of nutrition and healthy diets.

[21] WFP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2021. *Post-distribution monitoring report.* (Internal draft).

47. WFP's flagship girls' education incentive, providing refugee girls regularly attending school with a monthly cash allowance, has over the years successfully contributed to reducing the gender gap in access to primary and secondary education.[22] Negative gender norms related to girls' education –among the Afghan refugees- have been found to be a barrier to their access to education at higher grades,[23] so WFP will consider extending this education incentive to include senior high school girls. This relatively small investment will have a large impact on building the capacities of the next generation of refugee girls and women.

48. WFP will continue to support income-generation workshops established during the previous ICSP, including for trades such as tailoring, welding and mushroom cultivation. Following the selection process for the existing workshops, new livelihood workshops may be initiated based on demand and in consultation with beneficiaries. WFP will assess income-generating potential and existing capacities within the refugee population to ensure long-term sustainability. Participant selection criteria will prioritize refugee women and other groups at risk of exclusion, including young people and persons with disabilities. This will ensure maximum impact and offer an opportunity to increase their participation and economic and social empowerment in a safe environment inside settlements. WFP will draw on community engagement and CFM to inform programmatic adjustments based on community preferences and operational feasibility.

Activity 3: Support national disaster response, especially through the provision of emergency food assistance to crisis-affected populations in Iran

49. Upon request of the Government, through an existing agreement with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), WFP will support national disaster responses, through the provision of emergency food assistance to crisis-affected Iranians.

Partnerships

50. The Bureau for Alien and Foreign Immigrant Affairs is responsible for coordinating all matters related to refugees and international agencies, including the implementation of all WFP activities. The Bureau, UNHCR and WFP undertake periodic joint missions to ensure coherence in implementation and to strengthen the joint understanding of diverse vulnerabilities, risks and needs to inform possible programme adjustments.

51. Through its role as coordinator for the food security sector under the RCM, WFP will continue to strengthen collaboration with sector partners, including the Norwegian Refugee Council and Relief International. This will help ensure synergies and avoid overlap between WFP activities and those of other food security actors.

52. WFP's expertise in emergency preparedness and response is well acknowledged and appreciated in Iran, especially by the IRCS – the nationally designated entity for emergency response in natural disasters. WFP will strengthen its bilateral coordination with the IRCS to enhance WFP's ability to complement national response capacities as required.

Assumptions

53. This ICSP assumes that the Government maintains inclusive refugee policies, including access to education, health care and livelihood opportunities. Moreover, the ICSP assumes that funding will be available, including to account for possible increased food purchasing costs and transfer value adjustments to counter inflation, and that food is available locally in sufficient quantity and quality for local procurement.

[22] WFP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2019. *Joint Assessment Mission Report, Islamic Republic of Iran.*

[23] *Ibid.*

54. Another key assumption is that banking facilities remain available to beneficiaries to facilitate uninterrupted access to their cash entitlements.

55. Considering barriers to leaving Afghanistan and recognizing that people are only likely to take this course of action as a last resort, the ICSP assumes that mass cross-border displacement from Afghanistan into Iran will not take place in the foreseeable future.

Transition/handover strategy

56. Similarly, given the uncertain situation in Afghanistan, WFP does not expect a large-scale return of refugees in the near future. At the same time, the Government of Iran remains firm on its refugee policy, which does not favour naturalization of refugees. Therefore, WFP's options for exit strategies remain limited until large-scale repatriation or resettlement in third countries becomes a viable solution.

57. Within these limitations and in partnership with the Bureau for Alien and Foreign Immigrant Affairs and UNHCR, WFP will seek to support refugees to increase their income-generation skills and capitalize on potential future opportunities for voluntary return. As part of this endeavour, WFP will incentivize school enrolment and attendance of refugee girls and boys and advance the participation and economic empowerment, particularly of refugee women, young people and persons with disabilities, to achieve sustained food security and nutrition among refugees living in settlements.

Interim country strategic plan outcome 2: Crisis-affected populations in Iran benefit from enhanced coordination and improved capacities of national entities and other partners to prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies all year round

58. ICSP outcome 2 seeks to achieve a more effective and efficient response to crises in Iran through enhanced coordination and response capacities. It includes a single on-demand service provision activity, the implementation of which depends on evolving humanitarian needs and partner demands.

WFP strategic outcome

59. ICSP outcome 2 is aligned with WFP strategic outcome 5: Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective.

Focus area

60. The focus area of ICSP outcome 2 is crisis response.

Alignment with national priorities

61. ICSP outcome 2 is aligned with emergency preparedness and response plans outlined in the inter-agency RRP, in particular RRP strategic objective 1 (emergency preparedness). It is also expected to contribute to RRP strategic objective 3 (multi-sector assistance).

Expected outputs

62. The following output will contribute to the achievement of ICSP outcome 2:

- Output 4.1: Crisis-affected populations benefit from cash transfer, coordination or other services provided to partners in order to meet their basic needs.

Key activities

Activity 4: Provide cash transfer, coordination or other services to partners

63. During the first ICSP, WFP offered its CBT platform to partners to facilitate complementary (ad hoc) cash assistance for refugees living in settlements. WFP will continue to accommodate future bilateral service provision needs upon request.

64. WFP expects a continued, if not increased, demand for service provision in view of the uncertain situation in Afghanistan. If requested by UNHCR and humanitarian partners, WFP, as sector lead for logistics, will facilitate coordination and offer expertise to support bilateral service provision in warehousing and transportation of humanitarian items to and from hard-to-reach and underserved areas where part of the response to new influxes of refugees is anticipated.

65. WFP will also contribute to enhanced coordination through its role as lead for the food security sector while supporting other sectors, including health and nutrition, and livelihoods and resilience.

Partnerships

66. WFP will partner with national and international humanitarian and development actors to deliver on-demand services. For the coordination and delivery of logistics services, WFP will work closely with sector co-leads and partners, including private sector partners.

Assumptions

67. The ICSP assumes that demand for WFP services will continue and that coordination structures remain functional.

Transition/handover strategy

68. The essence of this ICSP outcome is to support other responders; the ownership of response strategies therefore remains with partners.

4. Implementation arrangements

4.1 Beneficiary analysis

69. With a continued strong emphasis on the refugee response, WFP aims to reach up to 70,300 unique direct beneficiaries, comprising 20,259 women, 20,620 men, 14,055 girls and 15,366 boys. The table below provides a detailed breakdown per activity.

70. The 31,000 registered refugees living in 20 settlements in 13 provinces across Iran will continue to be WFP's primary beneficiaries. In addition, WFP will assist up to 2,000 vulnerable settlement residents who are living within the refugee households but who do not hold a refugee identity card (Amayesh card). Ensuring that all vulnerable residents in settlements, regardless of their documentation status, can access unconditional food assistance will help to avoid perceptions of bias that could cause tension among different groups within the settlements. Moreover, WFP has budgeted for up to 19,000 new arrivals from Afghanistan, who are likely to face high levels of food insecurity and protection risks. This is based on the planning assumption that two new settlements each with a capacity of 7,500 people become operational, while also considering that the existing 20 settlements have the capacity to absorb an additional 4,000 vulnerable refugees in total.

71. While WFP's unconditional food assistance will apply a blanket coverage approach inside the settlements, it has been designed to contribute 80 percent of the daily food needs of households led by men and 100 percent of the needs of households led by women. Gender analysis conducted in 2017, including community consultations, corroborated by several rounds of subsequent PDM, found this approach to be more equitable considering that most households led by men are likely to receive additional income from occasional daily labour, whereas those led by women depend entirely on assistance from WFP and other

humanitarian organizations.[24] Based on national data on refugees with disabilities recently made available to WFP and JAM 2022 community consultations that identified persons with disability at high risk of vulnerability, WFP will provide additional cash top-ups to 500 refugees with disabilities.

72. Each year, the school feeding programme will continue to reach 8,000 refugee girls and boys attending schools inside settlements, while also including 1,000 refugee girls and boys living in settlements but attending schools outside of settlements; 1,800 refugee and host community girls and boys in urban areas; 1,200 schoolteachers, administrative and service staff; and up to 4,000 additional schoolchildren (new arrivals from Afghanistan).[25] In its initial phase, the urban pilot of the school feeding programme will leverage opportunities to maximize complementarity by targeting seven schools built by UNHCR for refugee and Iranian host community children in urban areas of Kerman province, which has one of the highest levels of child vulnerability in Iran.[26] Should the Government request a further expansion of school feeding in urban areas, WFP will seek to target schools and mixed communities (refugee and host populations) based on a highly conflict-sensitive analysis of needs and opportunities.

73. Up to 6,000 refugee girls, including potential new arrivals, will be eligible for the girls' education incentive each year.

74. Considering the frequent occurrence of short-term emergencies for which WFP has been asked to complement the national response, the ICSP includes a contingency based on past trends to allow WFP to rapidly assist 15,000 vulnerable Iranians affected by natural disaster.

TABLE 1: BENEFICIARIES BY INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME, OUTPUT AND ACTIVITY (*ALL YEARS*)

Interim country strategic plan outcome	Output	Activity	Beneficiary group	2023	2024	2025	Total
1	1.1	1	Girls	10 920	10 920	10 920	**10 920**
			Boys	11 960	11 960	11 960	**11 960**
			Women	14 560	14 560	14 560	**14 560**
			Men	14 560	14 560	14 560	**14 560**
			Total	**52 000**	**52 000**	**52 000**	**52 000**
	2.1	2	Girls	7 052	7 052	7 052	**8 243**
			Boys	7 748	7 748	7 748	**9 057**
			Women	360	360	360	**360**
			Men	840	840	840	**840**
			Total	**16 000**	**16 000**	**16 000**	**18 500**
	2.2	2	Girls	6 000	6 000	6 000	**7 400**

[24]The exception is the 2021 PDM, which indicated a deterioration in food security among households led by men, as opposed to an improvement among households led by women. WFP continues to monitor the situation and, subject to funding, will revisit the basic food basket and CBT value periodically to compensate falling beneficiary purchasing power.

[25] The unique number of beneficiaries for activity 2 for the ICSP level is higher than for each individual year because new students are expected to enrol in years 2 and 3 of the ICSP, while others are expected to graduate.

[26] Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare. 2021. *Atlas of Child Poverty in Iran.*

TABLE 1: BENEFICIARIES BY INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME, OUTPUT AND ACTIVITY (*ALL YEARS*)

Interim country strategic plan outcome	Output	Activity	Beneficiary group	2023	2024	2025	Total
			Boys	n/a	n/a	n/a	**n/a**
			Women	n/a	n/a	n/a	**n/a**
			Men	n/a	n/a	n/a	**n/a**
			Total	**6 000**	**6 000**	**6 000**	**7 400**
	3.1	3	Girls	710	710	710	**2 130**
			Boys	770	770	770	**2 310**
			Women	1 780	1 780	1 780	**5 340**
			Men	1 740	1 740	1 740	**5 220**
			Total	**5 000**	**5 000**	**5 000**	**15 000**
Total *(without overlap)*				**60 000**	**60 000**	**60 000**	**70 300**

4.2 Transfers

75. Unconditional food assistance will account for the largest part of transfers. The choice of modality will be based on the needs and preferences of the targeted populations as well as market access, cost-effectiveness and cost-efficiency considerations. Inside settlements, where the necessary financial infrastructure is available and functioning, a hybrid modality of in-kind cereals and CBTs will be utilized.

76. When the hybrid modality is not feasible, such as in the event of a rapid-onset natural disaster that leads to localized market disruptions, WFP will procure family food rations at the national level following consultation with partners and accounting for market availability.

77. Nutritious school snacks will be provided in-kind to all refugee girls and boys attending school, complementing the unconditional hybrid food assistance. Teachers and service staff as well as Iranian host community children in selected schools attended by refugee beneficiaries will receive the same daily ration. Refugee girls who regularly attend school will receive an additional monthly education incentive in the form of CBTs to encourage enrolment and attendance.

78. Annex II provides a detailed breakdown of the food rations and CBT values by ICSP outcome and activity, whereas Annex III outlines the total food/CBT requirements and value.

79. Regular reviews and planning will enable WFP to adjust the food basket and CBT value to help counter food price inflation and currency fluctuations. Gender, age and protection consultations will be conducted regularly to inform the choice of transfer modality and make sure that the particular needs and priorities of women, men, girls and boys, including persons with disabilities, are addressed. WFP will assess the impact of the various assistance modalities on gender-related dynamics within the household through regular monitoring and engagement with beneficiaries.

4.3 Country office capacity and profile

80. WFP has a small but well-structured presence in Iran which has enabled it to successfully fulfil its food assistance mandate despite the challenging operational context. Fifty-seven percent of country office staff are women, including most management positions. WFP will augment the current country office capacity through additional monitoring and evaluation staff and will continue to draw on temporary technical support from the regional bureau and headquarters as required, including for the potential activation of a humanitarian corridor with Afghanistan.

4.4 Partnerships

81. WFP is an active member of the United Nations country team which engages with the Government on several fronts, including through the UNSDCF and the UNHCR-led RRP processes. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior's Bureau for Alien and Foreign Immigrant Affairs remain WFP's key national partners; the former has a coordination role and the latter an operational and implementing role in all beneficiary-facing WFP activities in Iran.

82. WFP works closely with UNHCR in operationalizing the global memorandum of understanding signed between the two agencies in 2011 in the Iranian context. During this ICSP, this collaboration will be strengthened through the implementation of a joint plan of action, to be developed based on recommendations from the 2022 JAM.

83. Among the Rome-based agencies, only the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WFP have a presence in Iran. FAO's assistance in Iran does not contribute to the RRP but focuses on knowledge transfer related to enhancing agricultural productivity, natural resource management and climate change and its impacts. Although this limits areas for collaboration, WFP will explore possibilities of building on the successful joint greenhouse project launched in 2019 to enhance livelihoods of refugees in one of the settlements.

84. WFP coordinates extensively with partners in the food security, logistics, health and nutrition, education, and livelihoods and resilience sectors to ensure coherence, optimize responses and avoid duplication of assistance. WFP is also a member of inter-agency working groups on cash-based interventions and disability inclusion and will actively engage in the youth working group (yet to be established) throughout the duration of the ICSP.

85. WFP has close partnerships with donor and media representatives in-country. During the ICSP, WFP will continue to strengthen collaboration and advocate WFP's work with the private sector.

5. Performance management and evaluation

5.1 Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

86. Monitoring arrangements will be guided by WFP's new corporate results framework (2022–2025) and a country-specific monitoring and evaluation strategy tailored to the context and expanded activities. All monitoring will be gender-responsive and data collected will be disaggregated and analysed by sex, age and disability to identify what changes occur for which girls, boys, women and men, and why. This will enable evidence-based decision making for programme adjustments. ICSP baselines will be derived from 2022 PDM.

87. Implementation of the ICSP will be informed by annual in-person outcome and process monitoring, complemented by monthly phone-based process monitoring. Settlement authorities report monthly on distribution and livelihood activities, while WFP conducts regular field verification and implementation oversight visits. Field visits will remain a key tool to ensure follow-up on issues identified through remote monitoring or CFMs, and WFP

will endeavour to increase the frequency of such visits by expanding its monitoring and evaluation capacity.

88. WFP will conduct annual PDM jointly with UNHCR, with the support of a pool of trained enumerators. Data on outputs, outcomes and processes will be collected and analysed jointly and findings will be shared with the Bureau for Alien and Foreign Immigrant Affairs to allow for joint understanding of required programme enhancements. WFP will utilize monitoring findings to report on ICSP performance and to advocate resources as well as programmatic adjustments with internal and external stakeholders.

89. WFP will consult women and men and ensure that CFMs are safe, accessible and responsive to the different needs and risks that girls, boys, women and men identify and experience.

90. Digital data management solutions will support ICSP monitoring, ensuring adequate data protection measures are in place. WFP's corporate digital data collection solution, MoDa, will facilitate data collection using tablets to accelerate and simplify data entry in the field. The country office tool for managing effectively helps WFP track outputs on a monthly basis, while entered data will be reconciled with the logistics execution support system every quarter.

91. WFP plans to conduct a centralized country portfolio evaluation in 2024 to inform future programming.

5.2 Risk management

Strategic risks

92. The uncertain humanitarian situation in Afghanistan poses strategic risks to WFP operations in Iran on two fronts. Firstly, it could cause new arrivals of refugees thus putting a strain on Iran's response capacities, and secondly, it could lead to a shift in donor priorities away from the protracted refugee situation in Iran to the more immediate emergency, potentially leading to funding shortfalls. As an active member of the RCM, WFP will monitor the situation and regularly update its concept of operations to be able to effectively respond if the Government of Iran requests intervention or an expansion of operations. WFP will continue evidence-based advocacy with donors, including new emerging donors, on the importance of sustaining support to operations in Iran.

93. Iran remains at high risk of natural disasters, including earthquakes and flooding. WFP will mitigate these risks through enhanced emergency preparedness and response in the ICSP itself as well as a dedicated concept of operations for natural disasters. WFP will continue to play an active role in the United Nations disaster management team and ensure bilateral coordination with the IRCS is strengthened.

Operational risks

94. A further decrease in the purchasing power of refugee women and men poses a serious risk to the food security and well-being of WFP beneficiaries. For women, who are economically more vulnerable than men, it could exacerbate already discriminatory sociocultural norms and practices. To mitigate this risk WFP will increase cash and/or in-kind assistance as required, provided that sufficient funds are available, and continue to pursue inter–agency referral pathways to enable access to complementary assistance and services. WFP will continue to consult women and men from affected communities to better understand their specific needs and capacities.

95. In the past year, interest among suppliers to participate in tenders for local procurement has waned, in part due to the economic crisis, devaluation of the local currency and trade restrictions which have adversely affected the import of raw materials and thus the availability of both food and non-food items. This could lead to a pipeline break for food items and leave WFP unable to purchase non-food items in a timely manner. WFP will

continue to mitigate this risk by purchasing food in advance to cover several months' distributions and by conducting regular market assessments to verify supplier interest in participating in tenders and identify potential triggers of supply chain disruptions.

96. A further risk to the food security of refugee girls, boys, women and men is renewed restrictions to the banking sector, which could affect WFP's ability to transfer money into its local account for CBT disbursements. WFP will continue to monitor the political situation and will always pre-position at least six months' advance cash requirements in bank accounts in Iran.

Fiduciary risks

97. To avoid the risk of fraud and corruption WFP has an effective internal control system, including segregation of duties and regular oversight by the regional bureau.

98. WFP has a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual exploitation and abuse and will mitigate related risks by contributing to inter-agency efforts to strengthen protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) mechanisms and systems.

99. WFP will continue to maintain strong risk management frameworks and contingency planning for mitigating employee health, safety and security risks, especially in relation to COVID-19 and any sudden-onset natural disasters affecting Tehran.

Financial risks

100. Continued exchange rate volatility might affect WFP's ability to deliver according to the planned budget and could reduce the impact of the assistance provided. Mitigation actions include regular tracking of expenditure and flexibility to allow for adjustments of CBT values in case of currency fluctuations.

5.3 Social and environmental safeguards

101. Environmental challenges – particularly water scarcity and desertification, which are exacerbated by the effects of climate change, unsustainable farming practices and land mismanagement – are a growing threat to food security, economic growth and stability in Iran.[27] WFP will screen ICSP activities, including potential on-demand services that may have unintentional effects on the environment, for environmental and social risks using WFP's corporate environmental and social risk screening tool. WFP already consistently uses this tool when assessing the design and implementation of livelihood activities. Moreover, WFP seeks to limit the environmental impact of its operations through local procurement and shorter transportation routes where possible. WFP will explore implementation of an environmental management system during the ICSP.

102. WFP will mainstream gender equality, protection and AAP in all its activities and take steps to identify and mitigate conflict sensitivity risks, especially as it rolls out the school snack programme in urban areas.

6. Resources for results

6.1 Country portfolio budget

103. Ninety-six percent of the overall three-year budget of USD 37.1 million is allocated to ICSP outcome 1 to ensure that food-insecure refugees and other crisis-affected populations in Iran are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs throughout the year. As a large portion of the budget is allocated to unconditional resource transfers as a crisis response measure, the overall contribution to promoting equality and women's empowerment stands

[27] United Nations country team. 2015. *Islamic Republic of Iran: United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2017–2021).*

at approximately 4 percent. However, ICSP activity 2 provides a critical entry point for advancing such efforts, with 17 percent of the activity budget allocated accordingly.

TABLE 2: COUNTRY PORTFOLIO BUDGET *(USD)*

Interim country strategic plan outcome	Activity	2023	2024	2025	Total
1	1	8 433 840	11 579 366	11 605 481	**31 618 688**
	2	866 980	1 332 104	1 360 710	**3 559 795**
	3	69 822	74 153	76 061	**220 037**
2	4	538 365	547 088	536 824	**1 622 277**
Total		**9 909 008**	**13 532 711**	**13 579 078**	**37 020 797**

6.2 Resourcing outlook and strategy

104. WFP activities in Iran have been well funded in recent years. Steady donor support has not only enabled continued assistance, it has also provided scope to adjust assistance amounts and introduce evidence-based changes to programmes to increase impact and reach. A small group of donors provided consistent support to WFP throughout the previous ICSP and in 2021–2022 new contributions helped expand WFP's donor base in Iran. While this provides a positive point of departure and outlook for the ICSP, WFP's expanding activities combined with the possibility of natural disaster or a refugee influx from Afghanistan will require increased and more flexible funding to meet all needs. A country office partnership action plan, updated regularly, will guide and track strategic resource mobilization efforts with existing and new donors.

105. Should a funding shortfall occur, WFP will prioritize unconditional assistance to the most vulnerable refugee households headed by women, who have no additional income.

ANNEX I

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR IRAN INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (2023–2025)

SDG 2: Zero hunger

SDG target 1: Access to food

Interim country strategic plan outcome 1: Food-insecure refugees and other crisis-affected populations in Iran are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs throughout the year

WFP strategic outcome 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs

Focus area: crisis response

Assumptions

Refugee population in existing settlements remains stable.
No new large-scale refugee influx from Afghanistan.
No major shift in government refugee policies.
Food is available locally in sufficient quantity and quality.
Banking facilities remain available to refugees.
Continued access to ATM or POS machines in settlements.
Pipeline breaks are avoided.
Schools hosting refugees inside and outside of settlements continue to receive support from the Government and UNHCR.

Outcome indicators

Consumption-based coping strategy index, reduced CSI

Food consumption score

Livelihood coping strategies for food security

Retention rate/drop-out rate, by grade

Activities and outputs

1. Provide unconditional food assistance to food-insecure refugees and other vulnerable households (URT-1.2: Unconditional resource transfer)

1.1. Refugees and other vulnerable households receive cash-based and in-kind transfers to meet their basic food and nutrition needs (Output category: A: Resources transferred. Standard output 1.1: Food insecure and crisis-affected populations have access to nutritious food and cash-based assistance, restored assets and services to meet their urgent needs)

1.1 Refugees and other vulnerable households receive cash-based and in-kind transfers to meet their basic food and nutrition needs (Output category: B: Nutritious food provided. Standard output 1.1: Food insecure and crisis-affected populations have access to nutritious food and cash-based assistance, restored assets and services to meet their urgent needs)

2. Provide conditional support, especially to refugee women and girls, to incentivize education and enhance livelihoods (SMP-1.5: School-based programmes)

2.2. Girls regularly attending school receive take-home entitlements to increase their enrolment and retention rates (Output category: A: Resources transferred. Standard output 1.1: Food insecure and crisis-affected populations have access to nutritious food and cash-based assistance, restored assets and services to meet their urgent needs)

2.3. Refugees, especially women, receive livelihood support to generate income for their families and increase their self-reliance (Output category: A: Resources transferred. Standard output 1.1: Food insecure and crisis-affected populations have access to nutritious food and cash-based assistance, restored assets and services to meet their urgent needs)

2.1. Schoolgirls and boys, teachers and service staff receive snacks every day they attend school (Output category: A: Resources transferred. Standard output 1.1: Food insecure and crisis-affected populations have access to nutritious food and cash-based assistance, restored assets and services to meet their urgent needs)

2.1. Schoolgirls and boys, teachers and service staff receive snacks every day they attend school (Output category: B: Nutritious food provided. Standard output 1.1: Food insecure and crisis-affected populations have access to nutritious food and cash-based assistance, restored assets and services to meet their urgent needs)

2.1. Schoolgirls and boys, teachers and service staff receive snacks every day they attend school (Output category: N: School feeding provided. Standard output 1.1: Food insecure and crisis-affected populations have access to nutritious food and cash-based assistance, restored assets and services to meet their urgent needs)

3. Support national disaster response, especially through the provision of emergency food assistance to crisis-affected populations in Iran (URT-1.2: Unconditional resource transfer)

3.1. Affected populations receive food assistance in order to meet basic food needs and preserve their nutrition status. (Output category: A: Resources transferred. Standard output 1.1: Food insecure and crisis-affected populations have access to nutritious food and cash-based assistance, restored assets and services to meet their urgent needs)

SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

SDG target 16: Global partnership

Interim country strategic plan outcome 2: Crisis-affected populations in Iran benefit from enhanced coordination and improved capacities of national entities and other partners to prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies all year round

WFP strategic outcome 5: Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective

Focus area: crisis response

Assumptions

Demand for WFP services.
No new large-scale refugee influx from Afghanistan.
No major shift in government refugee policies.
Food is available locally in sufficient quantity and quality.
Banking facilities remain available to refugees.
Continued access to ATM or POS machines in settlements.
Pipeline breaks are avoided.

Outcome indicators

Percentage of users satisfied with services provided

Activities and outputs

4. Provide cash transfer, coordination or other services to partners (ODS-2.4: On-demand services)

4.1. Crisis-affected populations benefit from cash transfer, coordination or other services provided to partners in order to meet their basic needs (Output category: H: Shared services and platforms provided. Standard output 5.2: Partners utilize on-demand services to augment their capacity and ensure more efficient, effective and coordinated interventions)

SDG 2: Zero hunger

CC.1. Protection

Cross-cutting indicators

CC.1.1: Percentage of beneficiaries reporting no safety concerns experienced as a result of their engagement in WFP programmes

CC.1.2: Percentage of beneficiaries who report they experienced no barriers to accessing food and nutrition assistance

CC.1.3: Percentage of beneficiaries who report being treated with respect as a result of their engagement in programmes

CC.1.4: Number of women, men, boys and girls with disabilities accessing food/cash-based transfers/commodity vouchers/capacity strengthening services

CC.1.5: Country office meets or exceeds UNDIS entity accountability framework standards concerning accessibility (QCPR)

CC.2. Accountability

Cross-cutting indicators

CC.2.1: Percentage of beneficiaries reporting they were provided with accessible information about WFP programmes, including PSEA

CC.2.2: Country office meets or exceeds United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) standards on consulting organizations of persons with disabilities (QCPR)

CC.2.3: Country office has a functioning community feedback mechanism

CC.2.4: Country office has an action plan on community engagement

CC.2.5: Number of children and adults who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian, development, protection and/or other personnel who provide assistance to affected populations (IOM, OHCHR, UNDP)

CC.2.6: Percentage of WFP cooperating partners registered in the UN Partner Portal which have been assessed using the UN Implementing Partner PSEA Capacity Assessment

CC.3. Gender equality and women's empowerment

Cross-cutting indicators

CC.3.1: Percentage of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality

CC.3.2: Percentage of food assistance decision making entity members who are women

CC.3.3: Type of transfer (food, cash, voucher, no compensation) received by participants in WFP activities, disaggregated by sex, age and type of activity

CC.4. Environmental sustainability

Cross-cutting indicators

CC.4.1: Proportion of field-level agreements (FLAs)/memorandums of understanding (MOUs)/construction contracts (CCs) for CSP activities screened for environmental and social risks

CC.4.2: Country office implements environmental management systems

CC.5. Nutrition integration

Cross-cutting indicators

CC.5.1: Percentage of people supported by WFP operations and services who are able to meet their nutritional needs through an effective combination of fortified food, specialized nutritious products and actions to support diet diversification

CC.5.2: Percentage of WFP beneficiaries who benefit from a nutrition-sensitive programme component

SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

CC.1. Protection

Cross-cutting indicators

CC.1.1: Percentage of beneficiaries reporting no safety concerns experienced as a result of their engagement in WFP programmes

CC.1.2: Percentage of beneficiaries who report they experienced no barriers to accessing food and nutrition assistance

CC.1.3: Percentage of beneficiaries who report being treated with respect as a result of their engagement in programmes

CC.1.4: Number of women, men, boys and girls with disabilities accessing food/cash-based transfers/commodity vouchers/capacity strengthening services

CC.1.5: Country office meets or exceeds UNDIS entity accountability framework standards concerning accessibility (QCPR)

CC.2. Accountability

Cross-cutting indicators

CC.2.1: Percentage of beneficiaries reporting they were provided with accessible information about WFP programmes, including PSEA

CC.2.2: Country office meets or exceeds United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) standards on consulting organizations of persons with disabilities (QCPR)

CC.2.3: Country office has a functioning community feedback mechanism

CC.2.4: Country office has an action plan on community engagement

CC.2.5: Number of children and adults who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian, development, protection and/or other personnel who provide assistance to affected populations (IOM, OHCHR, UNDP)

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CC.4.1: Proportion of field-level agreements (FLAs)/memorandums of understanding (MOUs)/construction contracts (CCs) for CSP activities screened for environmental and social risks

CC.4.2: Country office implements environmental management systems

CC.5. Nutrition integration

Cross-cutting indicators

CC.5.1: Percentage of people supported by WFP operations and services who are able to meet their nutritional needs through an effective combination of fortified food, specialized nutritious products and actions to support diet diversification

CC.5.2: Percentage of WFP beneficiaries who benefit from a nutrition-sensitive programme component

ANNEX II

FOOD RATION *(g/person/day)* AND CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUE *(USD/person/day)* BY INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY					
	ICSP outcome 1				
	Activity 1		**Activity 2**		**Activity 3**
Beneficiary type	**Refugee households headed by men**	**Refugee households headed by women**	**Refugee schoolgirls**	**Schoolchildren, teachers and staff**	**Crisis-affected populations**
Modality	**Food and CBTs**	**Food and CBTs**	**CBTs**	**Food**	**Food**
Cereals – fortified wheat flour	500	500			
UHT milk				206	
Date bars				42.50	
Biscuits				37.50	
Family food ration					241.58
Total kcal/day	1 820	1 820		653	915
% kcal from protein	11.4	11.4		13.8	28
Cash-based transfers (*USD/person/day*)	0.28	0.34	0.10		
Number of feeding days per year	360	360	198	198	30

ANNEX III

TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS AND VALUE		
Food type/cash-based transfer	**Total (*mt*)**	**Total (*USD*)**
Cereals	25 740	11 520 529
Pulses	0	0
Oil and fats	0	0
Mixed and blended foods	676	1 136 213
Other	1 849	1 542 400
Total *(food)*	**28 265**	**14 199 142**
Cash-based transfers		14 978 700
Total *(food and cash-based transfer value)*	**28 265**	**29 177 842**

ANNEX IV

INDICATIVE COST BREAKDOWN BY INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME *(USD)*			
	SDG target 2.1 – WFP strategic outcome 1	**SDG target 17.16 – WFP strategic outcome 5**	**Total**
	ICSP outcome 1	**ICSP outcome 2**	
Focus area	**Crisis response**	**Crisis response**	
Transfers	29 587 454	1 500 000	**31 087 454**
Implementation	1 441 294	15 000	**1 456 294**
Adjusted direct support costs	2 209 300	107 277	**2 316 576**
Subtotal	**33 238 047**	**1 622 277**	**34 860 324**
Indirect support costs (*6.5 percent*)	2 160 473	0	**2 160 473**
Total	**35 398 520**	**1 622 277**	**37 020 797**

Acronyms

AAP	accountability to affected populations
CBT	cash-based transfer
CFM	community feedback mechanism
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ICSP	interim country strategic plan
IRCS	Iranian Red Crescent Society
JAM	joint assessment mission
PDM	post-distribution monitoring
PSEA	protection against sexual exploitation and abuse
RCM	Refugee Coordination Model
RRP	Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SSAR	Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework